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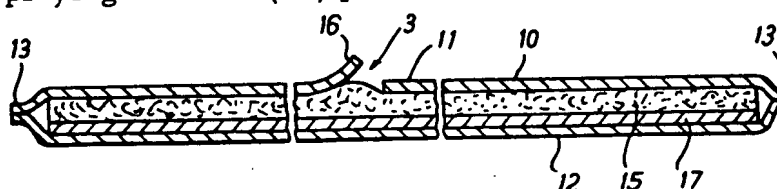
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E4710A/23 ★GB 1513-529

Board for pocket chess, draughts or backgammon - has slots in flexible playing surface for receiving tabs on laminar playing members

HUNTING C F 04.08.76-GB-032429 (18.02.76-GB-006266)  
 (07.06.78) A63f-03/02

The board for a board game, e.g. chess or backgammon, has a playing surface (11) provided with fields, e.g.



squares, each having a slot (3) for receiving a tab of a laminar element, e.g. a laminar chessman, the slot being shorter than the width of the field.

The board comprises a sheet (10) having the playing surface and secured along its margins to a backing sheet (12). Between the sheets there is a laminar member (15) of yieldable material which tends to displace the margins of the slots out of the plane of the playing surface to facilitate the insertion of the tabs of the laminar elements.  
6. 10. 76 (6pp1057).

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11)

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(21) Application No's 6266/76 (22) Filed 18 Feb. 1976  
32429/76 4 Aug. 1976

(19)



(23) Complete Specification Filed 6 Oct. 1976  
(44) Complete Specification Published 7 Jun. 1978  
(51) INT. CL.<sup>2</sup> A63F 3/02  
(52) Index at Acceptance  
A6H 3A 3C3 3C4

## (54) IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO COUNTER-AND-BOARD GAMES

(71) I, CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN HUNTING of 2 Smug Oak Lane, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England, a citizen of the United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a counter-and-board game, especially the board for such a game, and particularly though not exclusively to a game such as chess, draughts and backgammon.

Counters and boards for such games are known or have previously been proposed, which are particularly suitable in transit, e.g. in a train or aircraft, in that they are both small enough to be conveniently carried in the user's brief-case, handbag or even jacket pocket, and adapted to retain the counters in position on the board when the latter is subjected to the kind of vibrations normally encountered in such conveyances as aforesaid. Equipment for such purposes is generally referred to as a pocket or travelling set for the game concerned, e.g. a pocket chess set.

It is an object of the invention to provide such a pocket set or equipment having certain improvements (which will be apparent from the description of the preferred forms of such a set) as compared with sets of this kind presently available or previously proposed.

According to the invention in a first aspect thereof, a board for a counter-and-board game has a plurality of fields on a game playing surface thereof, at least some of the fields each having a slot for receiving a tab of laminar element therein, said slot being shorter in length than the width of the field at said slot, said board comprising a first sheet of material having on one side thereof said game playing surface, a second sheet of material defining a backing sheet for and being secured to, said first sheet along their common margins, and between said first and said second sheet a laminar member of yieldable material extending

over the back of substantially the whole of said game playing surface, the arrangement of the board being such that said yieldable material tends to displace the margins of said slots out of the plane of said game playing surface so as to facilitate the insertion in said slots of the tabs of said laminar elements.

A third sheet of material is preferably interposed between said first sheet and said laminar member, and said first and said second sheet are preferably of substantially the same nature, quality and thickness of material.

In a preferred form of said board, the material of said laminar member is polyurethane foam and said third sheet is thinner than said first sheet.

A stiffening sheet of, for example, cardboard, may be provided between said second sheet and said laminar member.

In order to make the board more readily foldable along a central line at right angles to said slots, said laminar member and a or the said stiffening sheet provided between said second sheet and said laminar member is/are preferably made in two separate halves, extending from margins of the board which are parallel to said line to slightly short of said line.

According to the invention, in a second aspect thereof, equipment for a counter-and-board game comprises a board according to said first aspect and a plurality of laminar elements, each said laminar element having a first portion and a second portion which is substantially coplanar with, and adjacent to, said first portion, said first portion being, where said portions meet, of greater, and said second portion of smaller, width than the length of said slot, and the arrangement being such that said second portion defines a tab for insertion in a said slot for retaining the said element in a predetermined position on the board and said first portion defines a counter for lying flat on a said field.

One form of equipment for a counter-and-board game embodying the invention, and a modification thereof, will now be described, by

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way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the board in the form of a chess board;

- 5 Figure 2 is a plan view of one of the said elements, viz. one whose said first portion defines one of the rook counters of a chess set;

- 10 Figure 3 is, to a greatly enlarged scale, a fragmentary section through a board such as that shown in Figure 1 on the line III-III in that figure; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary section similar to Figure 3 but of a board embodying the said modification.

- 15 Referring to Figure 1, a board 1 has sixty-four fields such as defining the playing surface of a conventional chess board.

- 20 Each of the fields has an elongate perforation or slot 3 coincident with a boundary line such as 4 of the field. The slots 3 are all parallel to each other and shorter in length than the width of the fields.

- 25 The laminar element shown in Figure 2 is in the form of a piece of plastics, e.g. polyvinyl chloride, sheet and has a first portion 5 and a second portion 6, the said portions being substantially coplanar and adjacent to each other. Where the portions 5 and 6 meet, the first portion 5 is of greater width than the length of the slot 3 and the second portion 6 is of smaller width than the length of the slot 3, thereby defining shoulders 7 and the second portion 6 defining a tab for insertion in one of the slots 3 for retaining the element in the desired position on the board, viz. with its axis 8 perpendicular to the slot 3, whilst the first portion 5, which is in the shape of the desired counter (e.g. a rook as shown in Figure 2) lies flat on the field concerned.

- 40 The board 1 consists of a first sheet of polyvinyl chloride or other suitable plastics material with the game playing surface on one side thereof, and a second sheet of material, defining a backing sheet which may be the same material as the sheet containing the game playing surface, secured to the latter along their common margins, for example by welding. The backing sheet may of course be of a different material from that containing the game playing surface, for example leather or hide, and the two sheets may be joined by means other than welding, e.g. an adhesive or stitching.

- 55 Referring now to Figure 3, the board 1 comprises a sheet 10 of polyvinyl chloride or other suitable plastics material having a game playing surface 11, which, it should be understood, is not limited to that of a chess board as shown in Figure 1.

- 60 A second sheet 12 of polyvinyl chloride or other suitable plastics material, defining a backing sheet for the sheet 10, is welded to the latter along their common margins 13.

- 65 Both said sheets 10 and 12 are preferably of the same nature, quality and thickness of material. Their thickness is typically somewhat

less than the thickness of the said laminar elements, the latter being typically 0.016" thick.

Between the sheet 10 and the sheet 12, a laminar member 15 of polyurethane foam or other suitable yieldable material extends over the back of substantially the whole of the game playing surface 11.

The arrangement of the board 1 is such that this yieldable material tends to displace the margins of the slots, such as the margin 16 of the slot 3 out of the plane of the surface 11 so as to facilitate the insertion in said slots of the tabs 6 of said laminar elements (Figure 2).

Between the sheet 15 and the backing sheet 12 there is also provided a stiffening sheet 17, e.g. of cardboard or any other suitable material. Both or either of the sheets 15 and 17 is/are either made in two separate halves, extending from substantially the margins of the board at right angles to the margins 13 to slightly short of a central line 9 of the board (Figure 1) (about which the board is folded, e.g. for stowage in a jacket pocket) when the game is not being played, or the material and thickness of the said sheet or sheets 15, 17 is/are such that, when the board is folded as aforesaid, bending fatigue on the said central line after prolonged use of the board does not cause severance of the sheet or sheets along that line. If the said sheet or sheets 15, 17 is/are in two halves as aforesaid, the sheets 10 and 12 are welded along lines closely adjacent and parallel to the said central line on either side thereof, in similar manner to the margins 13. It will of course be appreciated that the backing sheet, and, the stiffening sheet must not be joined to the sheet containing the game playing surface in the regions where the tabs 6 have to be inserted into the slots 3.

Referring now to Figure 4 (in which the same reference numerals are used to designate the same integers as those shown in Figure 3), a third sheet 14 of polyvinyl chloride or other suitable plastics material is interposed between the sheet 10 and the laminar member 15, the sheet 14 being thinner than the sheets 10 and 12. The tabs 6 of the laminar elements 5, 6 (Figure 2) are inserted in the slots 3 between the sheets 10 and 14, the functions of the sheet 14 being to allow these tabs 6 to slide between the sheets 10, 14 more easily (viz. without the tendency for them to get stuck in the polyurethane foam material of the member 15) and to keep air out of the latter and thus to give the board (particularly when folded along its central line to define a wallet-like article) a firmer feel, approximating to that of a leather wallet.

In other respects, the board illustrated in Figure 4 is as described with reference of Figure 3.

For whatever kind of counter-and-board game (such as those hereinbefore mentioned by way of example) the board and counter

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elements may be designed, the equipment embodying the invention has the advantage over previously proposed similar such equipments of greater certainty of the correct positioning and orientation of the counters on the board whilst the game is in progress and greater security of retention of the elements in relation to the board both whilst the game is in progress and whilst the equipment is in transit.

For the purpose of further enhancing this security, the respective materials of the sheets containing the game playing surface on the one hand and of the elements on the other hand, and/or the treatment of the surfaces of the former and the latter which face each other, may be so chosen and arranged as to produce a suitable degree of self-adhesion therebetween, such as, on the one hand, to provide a natural tendency for the counters to remain in position (such tendency augmenting the positioning effect of the shoulders 7 in relation to the slots 3) whilst, on the other hand, not militating unduly against the convenience of moving the counters from field to field whilst a game is in progress.

Since, in a preferred form of the equipment embodying the invention, the counters are merely distinguished and characterised by their outlines or contours (as opposed to images applied to their surfaces), the respective sets of counters used by the opponents in a game are not only of mutually contrasting colours, but also of colours which contrast with both (or, as the case may be, all of) the fields on the game playing surface of the board.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A board for a counter-and-board game, said board having a plurality of fields on a game playing surface thereof, at least some of the fields each having a slot for receiving a tab of a laminar element therein, said slot being shorter in length than the width of the field at said slot, said board comprising a first sheet of material having on one side thereof said game playing surface, a second sheet of material defining a backing sheet for and being secured to, said first sheet along their common margins, and between said first and said second sheet a laminar member of yieldable material extending over the back of substantially the whole of said game playing surface, the arrangement of the board being such that said yieldable material tends to displace the margins of said slots out of the plane of said game playing surface so as to facilitate the insertion in said slots of the tabs of said laminar elements.

2. A board according to Claim 1, wherein a third sheet of material is interposed between said first sheet and said laminar member.

3. A board according to claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said first and said second sheet are of substantially the same nature, quality and thickness of material.

4. A board according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the material of said laminar

member is polyurethane foam.

5. A board according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein a stiffening sheet is provided between said second sheet and said laminar member.

6. A board according to Claim 5, wherein the material of said stiffening sheet is cardboard.

7. A board according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the board is foldable along a central line at right angles to said slots and said laminar member and a or the said stiffening sheet provided between said second sheet and said laminar member is/are made in two separate halves, extending from margins of the board which are parallel to said line to slightly short of said line.

8. A board according to Claim 2 or any one of Claims 3 to 7 combination with Claim 2, wherein said third sheet is thinner than said first sheet.

9. A board according to Claim 1, constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

10. A board according to Claim 1, constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figure 4 of the accompanying drawings.

11. A board according to Claim 1, for a pocket chess set and constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figures 1 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.

12. A board according to Claim 1, for a pocket chess set and constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figures 1 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.

13. Equipment for a counter-and-board game, said equipment comprising a board according to any one of the preceding claims and a plurality of laminar elements, each said laminar element having a first portion and a second portion which is substantially coplanar with, and adjacent to, said first portion, said first portion being, where said portions meet, of greater, and said second portion of smaller, width than the length of said slot, and the arrangement being such that said second portion defines a tab for insertion in a said slot for retaining the said element in a predetermined position on the board and said first portion defines a counter for lying flat on a said field.

14. Equipment according to Claim 13, wherein the thickness of said first and said second sheet is somewhat less than the thickness of said laminar elements, said laminar elements being substantially 0.016" thick.

15. Equipment according to Claim 13 or Claim 14, wherein said game playing surface is arranged for a game of chess and the first

portions of said laminar elements define counters or men for the game of chess.

16. A pocket chess, draughts or backgammon set defined by equipment according to Claim 13 and constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described.
- 5 17. A pocket chess set defined by equipment according to Claim 13 and constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore

described with reference to, and as illustrated in, Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings.

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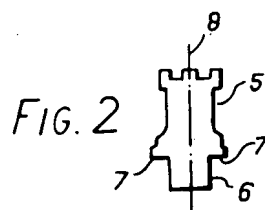
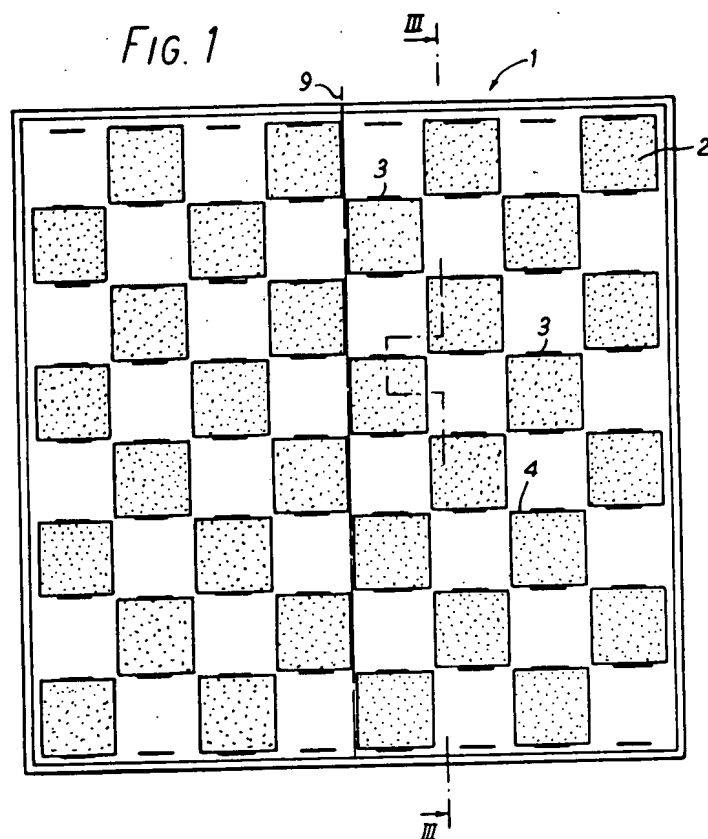
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

2 SHEETS

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the Original on a reduced scale

Sheet 1



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

2 SHEETS

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Sheet 2

FIG. 3

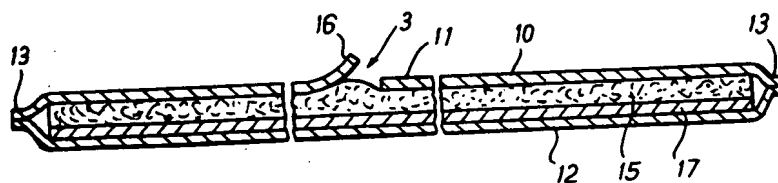


FIG. 4

